

REMARKS

In the office action dated July 31, 2006, the examiner rejected claims 1-46 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Casement et al. USPN 5,969,748. Applicants have amended certain claims to correct typographical errors. In view of the foregoing amendments and subsequent remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's rejections.

At page 4, second full paragraph of the office action, the examiner incorrectly argues that Casement

[compares] (MC) the selected content-based specification with the received content based indicator when the reference time falls within the first finite time range specification and impairing (MC) the program signal if the received content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification associated with the first time range specification (fig.3-4, col. 3, lines 33-43, col. 4, line 25-col. 5, line 17 and col. 6, line 30-col. 7, line 1+).

Applicants have carefully reviewed Casement, and in particular the figures and column and line citations that the examiner indicates supports this assertion, and respectfully submit that Casement clearly does not "compare[e] the selected content-based specification with the received content-based indicator when the reference time falls within the first finite time range specification" as claimed in claim 1. As clearly shown in Fig. 4 (reproduced below), Casement first checks whether there is a parental password (150) and, if not, it displays the broadcasted signal. If there is a parental password, it checks to see if there is a "box lock" (152) and, if there is, it displays a "box locked" pop up (154) and then requires a password (172) to view the TV at all. If there is no "box lock", it checks for a "channel lock" (156) and if a channel lock is present it then requires a password (172) to view the selected channel. If no channel lock is present, it checks for a "time lock" (158) and if a time lock is present it checks to see if the current time is within the specified time range (170). If it is not, the broadcast signal is displayed. If the current time is within the

specified time range, then a password (172) is required to view any TV. There is no associated comparison of a content indicator with a content specification. As is clear from further review of Fig. 4, the time lock is completely separate from any content screening or comparison. With Casement, the user either blocks program viewing by time or blocks it by content, but in no way combines both time and content locks as indicated by a review of the flow chart in regard to blocks 158, 170, 160 and 162. As noted above, Casement checks for a time lock at 158, if a time lock is present, it moves on to 170. If the time lock is not present it moves on to see if there is a content lock present – either an MPAA lock (160) or an attributes lock (162). The flow chart does not flow from bloc 170 to block 160 or 162 if the current time is with the specified time range. Thus, Casement does not combine the comparison of time and content, and thus does not meet the noted limitation of claim 12 or similar limitations in independent Claims 13, 19 and 25.

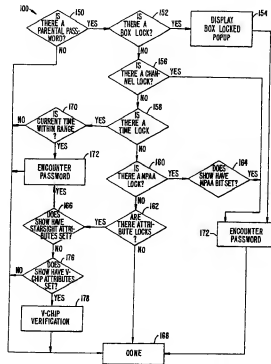


FIG. 4.

Casement's description of Fig. 4 (reproduced below) does not describe or suggest combining the comparison of time and content such that if the current time is within a specified time range it would check to see if the indicated content exceeded a content specification for that specified time range as Casement does not teach or suggest specifying or selecting a content specification for a specified or selected time range. Specifically, Casement states:

FIG. 4 illustrates a process flow chart for the operation of the parental control feature. When a user turns on the TV, or tunes to a program or channel, the system checks at step 150 whether a parental password is needed before the program(s) will be shown. If a parental password exists, a step 152 of the system checks whether a BOX lock has been set. **A BOX lock is essentially a special TIME lock as it keeps the TV locked for 24 hours a day, everyday.** If a BOX lock exists, a step 154 displays a pop-up informing the viewer that a password is necessary before the viewer may watch TV, and a step 172 requests that the user enters the parental password. When the user supplies the correct password, the user may tune to the program, schedule an auto-tune, or schedule a recording of the program at step 168.

If a BOX lock has not been set, the system checks for channel locks at step 156. If none exists, a step 158 checks for a TIME lock. **If a TIME lock exists, a step 170 checks whether the current time is within the range of the restricted times. The user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172 if the user is trying to watch TV at a restricted time.** Similarly, if a channel lock exists, and the user is trying to tune to a locked channel, the user would be asked to supply the password at step 172. **If the user is watching TV at an unrestricted time, the user may proceed to step 168 and may tune to the program, record the program and the like.**

If no TIME lock has been set, a step 160 checks for a rating/MPAA lock, as the ratings correspond to those set by Motion Pictures of America Association. If a rating lock has been set, a step 164 determines whether the program has a restricted rating. If so, the user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172. On the other hand, if there is no rating lock, a step 162 checks for a content/ATTRIBUTE lock. The system checks at step 166 whether the program contains restricted content, and if so, the user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172. A step 176 further checks whether the program has a V-chip classification if the program does not contain restricted content. If so, a step 178 (details shown in FIG. 7) determines whether the user is trying to gain access to a program with restricted V-chip classifications.

Col. 6, line 48 – Col. 7, line 20.

Figures 2B through 2E and 4, and the excerpts from Casement provided below further make clear that Casement does not provide a teaching or any suggestion of the claimed invention, i.e., it does not suggest or teach selecting a finite time period and a content level or specification to be used with the selected finite time period, checking to see if the actual time is within a selected finite time period and, if it is, comparing a program content indicator with the content level selected to be used with the selected finite time period and blocking the program if the content indicator exceeds the associate content level. This is further made clear from the following statements in Casement in conjunction with the figures:

If the user turns on the TV during a locked time, **or** tunes to a channel with a show that contains the locked rating or content/V-chip classification (for example), the television schedule system mutes the audio and displays a solid blue screen over the TV screen. A pop-up will appear asking for the parental password. The solid blue screen will disappear, and mute will be disabled when the correct password is entered. (Col. 3, lines 36-43.)

It does not say, "if the user turns on the TV during a locked time period and the program content indicator exceeds the selected content level associated with the locked time period, the television schedule system mutes the audio and displays a solid blue screen." It is an "or" statement, the variables are simply not used in conjunction with one another. The following excerpts further support this interpretation of Casement:

Col. 3, line 66 – Col. 4, line 8:

FIG. 2B shows a preferred embodiment of parental control menu 54 shown to a user when a parental password has been established, from main menu 50, and the user has entered the correct password. The user may lock TV programs by channel, by rating and/or content, **or by time**. If the user desires, for example, to lock by time, the user may move the cursor to the "Lock by Time" location and inputs the SELECT key. Alternatively, if programs have been locked, the user may unlock all programs that have been locked.

Col. 4, line 61—Col. 5, line 5:

The user may also lock specified time periods to prevent TV viewing during those times [this is the prevention of TV viewing in its entirety and not viewing of programs of selected content or rating as described or claimed in the subject

application]. The user may further specify the frequency of the lock, e.g., for a single day, for Monday through Friday only, weekends only, or for every day of the week. FIG. 2E shows pop-up 62, which requests user input for the time period during which TV viewing should be prevented. As shown, the user may specify the time to begin locking (the default time is 2:30 pm), the time to end locking (the default time is 5 pm), and the frequency of the lock (the default frequency is for a single day). In the situation where the user has set these values before, the system remembers the values and displays them when pop-up 62 is shown.

Applicants respectfully submit that Casement does not meet each and every limitation of the claims. Accordingly, claim 1-46 meet the requirements for patentability under 35 USC 102(e).

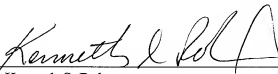
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully assert the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

Respectfully submitted,

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